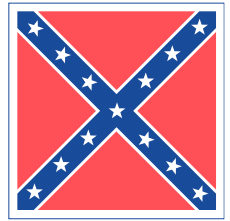


THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Founded December 3, 1940



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David A. Powell: "Chickamauga: Barren Victory"



The battle of Chickamauga was the only clear-cut victory won by the Confederate Army of Tennessee, resulting as it did in the rout of one-third of the Union Army of the Cumberland, as well as forcing the remainder to abandon the field on the night of September 20. Despite that success, however, Chickamauga ultimately came to be named a "barren victory" by CSA General D. H. Hill. Despite defeat, the Union Army escaped a larger disaster, and the resultant siege of Chattanooga failed to produce decisive results. A scant two months later, after being defeated at Lookout Mountain and Missionary Ridge, the Rebels were driven from the field.

What went wrong? Why did Braxton Bragg fail to follow up his success, or launch a pursuit? Was the Union army routed, or could they have checked Bragg's army on September 21? On October 13th, historian Dave Powell will try and answer these (and other) questions.

David A. Powell is a graduate

of the Virginia Military Institute (1983) with a BA in history. He has published numerous articles in various magazines and more than fifteen historical simulations of different battles. For the past decade, David's focus has been on the epic battle of Chickamauga, and he is nationally recognized for his tours of that important battlefield. The result of that study are five books, The Maps of Chickamauga (2009), Failure in the Saddle (2010) and the three volumes of a Chickamauga trilogy; The Chickamauga Campaign: A Mad Irregular Battle (2014), The Chickamauga Campaign: Glory or the Grave (2015) and the final volume, The Chickamauga Campaign: Barren Victory (2016). His most recent work, Battle Above the Clouds, was published in June of 2017. David, his wife Anne, and their brace of Bloodhounds live and work in the northwest suburbs of Chicago, Illinois. He is Vice President of Airsped, Inc., a specialized delivery firm.



765th REGULAR MEETING

★★★★★

Friday, October 13th

★★★★★

HOLIDAY INN O'HARE
5615 N. CUMBERLAND, CHICAGO

Cocktails at 5:30 p.m.

Dinner at 6:30 p.m.

\$40 - Members/Non-members

**ENTRÉE
BUFFET STYLE.**

AMERICA'S UNFINISHED WORK: FUNDING BATTLEFIELD PRESERVATION

Historic battlefields, such as Antietam and Fort McHenry in Maryland and Little Bighorn in Montana, are iconic and evocative sites that encourage us to reflect on defining and oftentimes difficult events in our nation's history. America's very ideals and values were contested, shaped, affirmed, and reaffirmed at these places. In the Gettysburg Address, President Abraham Lincoln said: "The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced." These historic sites illuminate our history and create space in which to discuss issues that have long been significant to us and remain relevant today.

In conjunction with our partners at Pew Charitable Trusts and the National Parks Conservation Association, the National Trust for Historic Preservation is engaged in the nationwide Restore America's Parks campaign to tackle the deferred maintenance issue that carries with it the risk of permanent damage or loss of historic and cultural assets. In one of a series of letters to Congress, we focused on American battlefields, writing to leaders on the House and Senate Interior Appropriations subcommittees. More than 100 individuals and organizations spanning 29 states and the District of Columbia signed on to the letter, urging Congress to protect these important sites by guaranteeing a reliable and dedicated funding source for their repair needs. The wide variety of preservation and cultural resource organizations that joined the Trust—which includes the Civil War Trust, the American Association

for State and Local History, Friends of Sitka National Historical Park, and the Indianapolis Civil War Round Table—demonstrates a strong commitment to honoring the importance of battlefields to our collective American story.

Funding Our Nation's Battlefields

Congress provided \$2.9 billion for the NPS in FY17, an \$81 million boost over the previous fiscal year. Successful advocacy led to significant increases to three key accounts for maintaining our parks and battlefields: the Repair and Rehabilitation, Cyclic Maintenance, and Line-Item Construction accounts increased by \$54 million, or 17 percent.

...

In testimony to the Appropriations committees, the National Trust expressed support for many historic preservation programs, including deferred maintenance accounts that support much-needed work at many of our battlefields. Furthermore, we are working with our partners and champions on Capitol Hill to generate support for the National Park Legacy Act of 2017 (S. 751, H.R. 2584), which would provide a dedicated and reliable funding source for park maintenance programs. Advocacy efforts like these are necessary to protect all of our parks, especially our historic battlefields.

Earlier this spring the National Trust completed a case study outlining the deferred maintenance needs—with a focus on historic assets—at Vicksburg National Military Park in Mississippi, where the backlog exceeds \$18 million. One of the most monumented battlefields in the world, Vicksburg requires consistent funding to repair its memorials. Additional maintenance funding would

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The only requirement for membership in The Civil War Round Table is a genuine interest in the Civil War and its era. For information, address Membership Committee, 1039 Hinswood, Darien, Illinois 60561, or editor@chicagocwrt.org.

secure bluffs for visitor safety and restore historic buildings for visitor access. With more than 500,000 visitors every year, the park is a significant economic driver, bringing more than \$30.5 million to the local economy. Nationally, more than 307 million visitors experience the parks each year, spending \$16.9 billion in gateway communities and generating \$32 billion in national economic output.

Historic battlefields are also important to modern military and leadership instruction. At the turn of the 20th century, the U.S. War Department owned many battlefields and used them for tactical practice and drills. During World War I, training camps were installed at Gettysburg; Petersburg, Virginia; and Chickamauga, Georgia. Today, in addition to strategy and equipment training, battlefields across the nation are sites of leadership development—for example, the Marine Corps Base Quantico in Virginia. ...

Christine Luthy is the Government Relations program coordinator at the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

From the National Trust for Historic Preservation blog.

SEPTEMBER MEETING

By Mark Matranga

Ed Bonekemper addressed The Civil War Round Table at its 764th Regular Meeting on September 8, 2017, on *False Remembrance of the Civil War: The Myth of the Lost Cause*, an idea he considers an effective propaganda campaign that has affected American history down to the present day. The myth originated in a South devastated by the war, its wealth erased, its fields and farms devastated, and a generation of young men virtually extinguished.

The South did not always consider its 'peculiar' institution an overall social and economic good. But as the abolition movement gained support this changed and southerners took to defending slavery as benefitting all, even the slaves. When the war came, the South maintained that the war was unnecessary except as the right for states to resist a despotic government. Bonekemper maintains this was mere pretext for the real reason for secession – the perpetuation of slavery.

Slavery was at the core of the American economic system at mid-century. Total U.S assets were 16.2 billion of which the South owned approximately 40%. Some 3 billion dollars were invested in slaves, making slavery approximately 19% of the nation's wealth. Cotton represented 75% of America's exports as well as English imports, and the price of cotton was increasing on the eve of secession – English as well as American mills were dependent on southern cotton.

President Lincoln attempted to persuade the border state slaveholders to sell their slaves but, ironically, that plan was stillborn as no one would sell. Bonekemper notes that this exemplified how woven into the

fabric of society slavery was, even in those states that did not secede. And although slaves were increasingly been sold from the upper south 'down river,' the price of slaves in the border states was on the rise due to a shortage of labor in emerging southern industries. Many owners leased slaves and thereby profited by their labor.

It was to preserve the way of life in the south made possible by slavery, and not 'states' rights' that brought about the war, said Bonekemper. Despite the rhetoric, only slave states seceded. In the deep south states, a very high percentage of the population was slaves. Of the original 7-state Confederacy, 47% of the population was black; in the remaining four states that joined later, the black population was 29%. Bonekemper feels that this demographic fueled secession: in contrast, of the border states that stayed in the union 14% of the population were slaves.

The seceding states complained that the northern states and the government failed to enforce the Fugitive Slave Act as required by the law and the Constitution. But the South Carolina ordinance of secession emphasized northern hostility to the institution of slavery; Florida also mentioned an anti-slavery attitude as sundering the union. And, of course, Alexander Stephens in his famous speech called slavery the "Cornerstone" of the Confederacy. Bonekemper holds that the southern states maintained the absolute right to own slaves and to extend slavery into the territories forever. Thus all attempts in the aftermath of the war to gloss over the reasons for secession were attempts to gloss over the true

cause of the war.

The Lost Cause was written by Edward Pollard, editor of the Richmond Examiner, who maintained the cause of the war was not slavery but rather state sovereignty. Jubal Early, William Nelson Pendleton, and others in the Southern Historical Society contributed to the myth. The myth held up the idea that the Confederacy pursued a just cause but was overrun by northern hordes using brute force. It elevated General Lee into a demi-god and branded Grant a butcher.

Over time, the south integrated back into the nation but the Lee myth was perpetuated by many authors, most prominently Douglas Southall Freeman. But with time Lee's image has been tarnished, and now his statues are being removed. The difficulty with the "Lost Cause" says Bonekemper, is its identification with white supremacy. It is as it is described, a myth.



2018 BATTLEFIELD TOUR

The 68th tour dates are April 26th-April 29th for the Atlanta Campaign Tour. The website will be updated soon. Please direct all questions via email using cwrt2018tour@chicagocwrt.org. Randy Doler 219-921-9532 and Brian Seiter 708-513-1865 are the tour co-chairs. Ed Bearss and Jim Ogden are the guides.

The base hotel will be the Holiday Inn Express in Kennesaw, GA. The address to the hotel is 2485 George Bushee Parkway, NW, Kennesaw, GA 30144. The cost for the tour will be \$ 845.00 for double occupancy and \$ 1120.00 for single occupancy. The rest of the details will be published soon on the website. On to Atlanta!

GRAPESHOT



Rob Girardi will present “The Changing Memory of the Civil War” October 11th at the Kenosha Civil War Museum. On Oct. 17th he’ll present “The Murder of Maj. Gen. Bull Nelson” to the Waukesha CWRT.

The **Civil War Museum in Kenosha** will host its Second Friday Lecture Series Oct. 13th, noon, with Tom Staats speaking on “The American Flag.”

Information on all Civil War Museum programs is available at (262) 653-4140 or www.thecivilwarmuseum.org.

On October 10th **Bruce Allardice** will present “Baseball and the Civil War” to the Lake County Genealogical Society.

On Oct. 5th the **Chicago History Museum** will present excerpts from “The Heavens are Hung in Black,” a prize-winning play about Abraham Lincoln and the Emancipation Proclamation. Tickets for non-members are \$10.

Check the **Announcements** section of the CWRT’s website for additional coming events.

Know of any upcoming talks, events, or publications? All members are welcome to contribute items to the newsletter. Contact the editor at editor@chicagocwrt.org or (630) 297-8046.

PLEASE NOTE

Make your reservations by Sunday, Oct 8, by emailing dinnerreservations@chicagocwrt.org, or calling 630 460-1865 with the names of your party.

If a cancellation becomes necessary after dinner reservations have been made, please email us at dinnerreservations@chicagocwrt.org and/or call us at 630-460-1865.

We are offering the option of choosing not to have dinner and coming only for the address at 7:15 p.m., for a charge of \$10 per person.

Parking at the Holiday Inn is FREE.

More Upcoming Civil War Events

- Oct. 4th, Kankakee Valley CWRT:
Rob Girardi on “Civil War Generals (and what they said about each other)”
- Oct. 6th, Northern Illinois CWRT:
Don Sender on “George Armstrong Custer”
- Oct. 10th, McHenry County CWRT:
Jerry Allen on “Wisconsin-Hotbed of Secession?”
- Oct. 12th, UI Springfield Brookens Auditorium: Michael Burlingame on “Lincoln’s Views on Education”
- Oct. 12th, Lake County CWRT: Dave Oberg on “Baseball During the Civil War”
- Oct. 12th, Milwaukee CWRT: Dave Powell on “Chickamauga: Barren Victory”
- Oct. 19th, Lincoln-Davis CWRT:
Dan Lee on “The Civil War in the Jackson Purchase”
- Oct. 20th, Salt Creek CWRT: Bruce Allardice on “Sherman’s March”
- Oct. 26th, South Suburban CWRT:
Doug Hurt on “Food and Agriculture during the Civil War”

Bulletin Board



FUTURE MEETINGS

Regular meetings are held at the Holiday Inn O’Hare, the second Friday of each month, *unless otherwise indicated*.

Nov. 10th: Tom Clemens on “Antietam”

Dec. 8th: David Dixon on “Lost Gettysburg Address”

Jan. 12th: Bruce Allardice on “The Battle of Ezra Church”

Feb. 9th: Larry Hewitt on “Confederate General Richard H. Anderson”

Mar. 9th: Robert Jenkins on “Peach Tree Creek”

Apr. 13th: John Marszalek, Nevins-Freeman Address

May 11th: Joseph Rose on “Grant Under Fire”

June 8th: Dennis Rasbach on “Joshua Chamberlain and the Petersburg Campaign”

Abraham Lincoln Bookshop

Their next Civil War related “Author’s Voice” is Oct. 14th at noon, with John Marzalek talking about his new annotated edition of Grant’s Memoirs, and Charles Calhoun talking about his new book, The Presidency of U.S. Grant.

Visit <http://alincolinbookshop.com/> for more information.